
Court Appointed Special Advocate Newsletter

Superior Court of Arizona ♥ Maricopa County Juvenile Division
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A CHILD'S VOICE IN COURT

CASA Program Loses Model Coordinator

When many people think of the CASA Program they picture Katrina Montaño. CASA's face is changing. After six years of dedicated service, Katrina is moving on. This month she will transition to her new job as Dependency Case Flow Manager for Model Court.

"I'm excited about the new position but feel a loss. I've worked with so many great people at CASA and loved being able to interact with the volunteers on an individual basis," Katrina said. She's glad to be staying with the juvenile court and looks forward to having the ability to impact the dependency system on a more systemic basis.



enthusiasm will be great assets as she begins this new responsibility."

Katrina has been with CASA since 1992 when there were only 100 volunteers and two coordinators. During the years she saw the program grow to over 200 volunteers and five coordinators. The program couldn't have grown without her hard work, her attention to detail, and her forthright style of leadership. She will be missed!

Good Luck Katrina!

Judge surveys happenings at "evolving" Juvenile Court

By Maurice Portley

During her transition to Model Court she will continue to coordinate volunteers on her caseload. The CASA office will notify volunteers prior to any shift in coordinator assignment.

As Case Flow Manager, Katrina will participate in the design of the Model Court Program and manage the coordination of dependency cases. This will include, among other things, overseeing timeliness and filing requirements of model court cases and integrating communication among parties to the case.

Dependency Program Director Bill Callahan will continue to supervise Katrina in her new capacity and is looking forward to her contributions to Model Court. He said, "Katrina's years of work for the Maricopa County CASA Program have been extremely valuable as the program has expanded. She is dedicated to improving the welfare of dependent children through quality advocacy. Her knowledge, skills, and

Remember when you were a kid and you thought you weren't going to have fun doing something, but you ended up having a great time?

If you read this, I'll guarantee you will learn something that you didn't know before, but which may be useful as general knowledge. You also might enjoy yourself.

Did you know that:

- The first juvenile court was created nearly 100 years ago (April 1899) by the Illinois Legislature as an "Act to regulate the treatment and control of dependent, neglected and delinquent (children)?"

CASA Program Staff

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■ 2 November 1998

- The original definition of a dependent child included not only children who were abandoned, neglected or abused, but any child under eight "who is found peddling or selling any article or singing or playing any musical instrument upon the streets or giving any public entertainment"?
- The venue point for the Maricopa County Juvenile Court is Central Avenue -- everything east of Central goes to the Southeast Juvenile Court Center in Mesa and everything west goes to Durango, the original Juvenile Court Center?

Our Juvenile Court is preparing for the November election when the misnamed "jail tax issue," proposition 400 and 401, will be on the ballot. It's really a capital-improvement issue with funding from a limited sales tax.

Proposition 400 authorizes the board of supervisors to collect a 1/5 of one cent sales tax and to accumulate revenues for the construction of juvenile detention facilities and additional jail space. Proposition 401 authorizes the board to use the funds for construction.

Judges, commissioners, probation officers, staff and other employees by law cannot ask anyone to vote for the propositions, but we can provide important information that may help you and other voters make an informed decision. For example:

- The existing juvenile detention facilities are designed to detain 277 youngsters, although there are only 125 beds at the Southeast Juvenile Facility. There is no land adjacent to the existing facility for additional detention beds.
- The juvenile detention facilities routinely are 25 to 30 percent over physical capacity and recently were nearly 45 percent over capacity.
- The number of juvenile referrals has increased more than 44 percent over the last five years.
- In 1997, there were 25,000 juvenile referrals and more than 10,000 youngsters were detained for some period. Those figures are expected to grow in the foreseeable future.
- The number of juveniles detained for probation violations has increased an average of 70 percent over the last three years.
- The average daily detention population increased 51 percent over the last five years.
- A detention population of more than 30 percent over capacity is a public safety issue for both detainees and staff.
- There has been a 41-percent increase in the number of juvenile referrals in the last four years and a 62-percent increase in the number of kids detained.
- The juvenile population, like that of Maricopa County in general, continues to grow by leaps and bounds.

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If propositions 400 and 401 are approved, the Juvenile Court will be able to add more than 350 detention beds over the next 15 years. It also will mean that the Juvenile Court can expand its prevention and diversion programs and, especially, the detention-based programs to address issues that contribute to delinquency -- substance abuse (since more than 60 percent of the kids in detention have abused drugs or alcohol), domestic violence, aggression and anger management, parenting classes, education and mental health issues.

The Juvenile Court has been successful with youngsters - 70 percent of the kids who came to court and receive a consequence never return - and that contributes to the public safety. If propositions 400 and 401 pass, we hope to be in a position to strengthen our ability to intervene in children's lives and protect the public.

Before we finish with delinquency, the Juvenile Drug Court is operating with positive results. It's a probation term for a number of youngsters with serious substance abuse problems. They appear weekly before Judge John Foreman who monitors their performance. He can praise them or impose consequences if they failed to meet the stringent requirements that are monitored by the Drug Court team. Although the program started in November, a recent federal grant will allow it to grow and expand at the Southeast facility. Adequate detention space is important so that immediate consequences can be imposed as needed.

Did you know that judicial officers call adoptions "the happy docket?" It's the only time that everyone will leave the courtroom happy, want to take a picture with the judicial officer and even take photos of the Durango family.

Commissioner Richard Aubuchon, a long-time stalwart of the Juvenile Court, recently has been handling the adoptions calendar. He has proposed some changes to the adoptions calendar to expedite the certification of foster parents who want to adopt their charges. The proposal is momentous because foster children must know quickly that they will be in a stable, permanent and loving home to begin to reach their potential. It's also one way to meet the needs of children as required by the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997 and Arizona's HB 2645 (A.R.S. § 8-823 et seq.).

Speaking of HB 2645, also known as the Model Court Project, it passed and will require a mandatory hearing -- preliminary protective hearing -- within seven days after a child is removed from the home by Child Protective Services. The hearing is designed to resolve three questions: where will the child be placed during the pendency of the proceedings, when and how can the parents visit their child, and what services will be provided to the family to begin the process of reunification.

Continued on page 5

CASA SPONSORED TRAINING

November 14, 1998, 9:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., Court Report Writing - All CASAs need to sign up for one Court Report Writing training. Presenters: Maricopa CASA Program Staff. Location: Juvenile Court Durango, 3125 W. Durango, Room 223. Please RSVP to the CASA office by 11-11-98.

December 3, 1998, 12:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m., Court Report Writing - All CASAs who have not attended one of the previous training sessions are required to sign up. This is your last chance to get your Court Report Writing training in before the year is over. Presenters: Maricopa CASA Program Staff. Location: Juvenile Court - Southeast, 1810 S. Lewis, Saguaro Room. Please RSVP to the CASA office by 11-27-98.

COMMUNITY SPONSORED TRAINING

November 4, 1998, 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m., Do I Spend Enough Time with My Kids - Sponsored by CASA de los Niños (FREE and also includes a FREE brown bag lunch!). Presenters: Dr. Marilyn Heins, Pediatrician and Guest Columnist, Arizona Daily Star. Location: CASA de los Niños, 1101 N. 4th Avenue, Tucson. By reservation only, RSVP (520)624-5600 weekdays 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

November 8-9, 1998, PeopleLinks Training of Trainers - Sponsored by Arizona Prevention Resource Center. Cost is free. Participants will become part of PeopleLinks network. Location: Prescott, AZ. Contact: Sharon Ketchum, 727-2772.

November 11, 1998, Night or Day - Dr. Block's Top 10 List of Things That Make a Family Successful - Sponsored by The Mental Health Association of Arizona. Cost is free. Location: Glendale, AZ. Contact 994-4407.

November 12, 1998, Let's Talk - Night or Day - Treatment from the HeartBlending Spirituality for Excellence in Multi-Cultural Chemical Dependency Treatment - Sponsored by The Mental Health Association of Arizona. Cost is free. Location: Scottsdale, AZ. Contact 994-4407.

November 12-13, 1998, Arizona CHAMPS Peer Project for Tobacco Use Prevention - Sponsored by Arizona Prevention Resource Center. Cost is free. Location: Phoenix, AZ. Contact

November 16-18, 1998, PeopleLinks Training of Trainers - Sponsored by Arizona Prevention Resource Center. Cost is free. Location: Prescott, AZ. Contact: Sharon Ketchum at 727-2772.

CONFERENCES

January 7 & 8, 1999, Tenth Annual Child Abuse Prevention Conference "A Decade of Progress - A Lifetime of Commitment" - 40 Workshops and seminars on: Early Brain Development, 1999 Legislative Issues, Family Violence Prevention, Child Protection Teams, Home Visiting, Child Advocacy Centers. Location: Sheraton Mesa Hotel & Community Center. Register early and save! Postmarked by Dec. 1: \$130.00, Postmarked after Dec. 1: \$145.00, Postmarked after Dec. 21: \$160.00. For more information contact: Child Abuse Prevention Conference '99, POB 432, Prescott, AZ 86302. FAX (520)778-5300, Email: pca@northlink.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FALL PICNIC

The annual CASA Fall picnic was a great success thanks to all the volunteers who brought their CASA kids, food to share and participated in the activities. Thanks to Louanne Tinker for giving manicures to the kids. Thanks to Kappa Alpha Theta and especially to Debbie Mathews for hosting another wonderful picnic. See you next October!

LETS GO TO THE THEATER!

Phoenix Theater's Children's Theater, The Cookie Company, is making available to our CASA children ten seats for each performance of this year's season. Two-weeks advance notice is required and availability is on a first-come-first-serve basis. If you are interested in any of the performances, please call the Phoenix Theater box office at 254-5121.

X'Mas In OZ - December 1, 1998 - Tues. 7 p.m. Preview
Magical Magpie - February 2, 1999 - Tues. 7 p.m. Preview
Heidi - March 23, 1999 - Tues. 7 p.m. Preview

Tickets will be released for sale 15 minutes prior to curtain if they are not picked up.

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTMAS XVII

November 30 - December 18, Weekdays at Noon - The 18th annual festival of ethnic Christmas trees, Santa carvings, ethnic dolls and Creché collection. Location: Bank One Center, 201 N. Central Avenue, Phoenix, (Central Avenue at Van Buren Street). Cost is free. Contact: Jo Ann Johnson, (602)221-1005.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

There are no volunteers with birthdays this month.

November

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Court Report Writing 9:30-11:00 Juvenile Court Durango, Room 223 RSVP by 11-11-98
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

■ 5 November 1998

Continued from Page 2 -

Our Model Court Implementation Committee has been meeting since January to plan for the implementation of the legislation. Committee members include all the stakeholders -- CPS, COMCARE, the Clerk's office, the Legal Defender's Office (which represents parents), the Public Defender's Office Dependency Unit (which represents children under age 8 as the guardian ad litem), the Office of Court Appointed Counsel, and others. Although the legislation does not require Maricopa County to fully implement the process until January 2000, the committee's hard work and cooperation will allow us to fully implement the process by July 1999.

Finally, and this is important, the statutory reforms also require that foster parents be given notice of any hearings and the ability to participate in the hearings. There are some wonderful foster parents in our community and their participation in the proceedings will help the Court understand how well a youngster is doing as it assesses whether reunification is the proper plan.

Anyone with a juvenile record again can petition the court to destroy those records. The statute had lapsed last July. For misdemeanors, the petitioner has to be at least age 19 and age 25 for felonies. The felonies, however, still can be used against the adult if he or she walks on the wild side of the law.

The Juvenile Court, as always, is continuing to evolve. In 1995, the court implemented a dependency mediation program to resolve cases more quickly than the statutory 120 (now 90) days; expanded mediation to detention and other issues; implemented "Keep the Kid" in delinquency proceedings so that the same juvenile officer monitors the same youngster; and created and expanded prevention, diversion and intervention programs to help youngsters keep from committing new offenses. We've now implemented "One Judge, One Family" so that the same judicial officer is responsible for managing a family's case, whether dependency or delinquency, through its completion.

It's an exciting time to be a member of the Juvenile Court. And it's intensively rewarding. ► *Maurice Portley is presiding judge of the Maricopa County Juvenile Court. Reprint from Maricopa Lawyer*

COMMENDATIONS

Thanks to the efforts of **CASA Judy Peirce**, her CASA child received tutoring services. Combined with the collaborative efforts of the foster parent and school the child has shown improvement in performance. Her performance is now 2 grades above from when she started a year ago!!

Court Appointed Special Advocate Newsletter

CASA Ray Bloyed presented the CASA Program to the Peoria Kiwanis. Thanks Ray for the outreach efforts!

Thanks to **CASA Mary Ann Stanton** for volunteering to facilitate the CASA informational meeting at the Glendale Public Library. The CASA Program appreciates your help!

A very special thank you to **CASA Gladys Alten** for her presentation to the Arizona Department of Revenue and for participating in the Scottsdale Community College Volunteer Fair. Thanks for your help Gladys!

CPS Case Worker commends **CASA Teri Werner!** Teri is very knowledgeable about the case, has an excellent rapport with the children, and has been involved in their case for about a year. Great job Teri!

Foster Care Review Board commends the case worker and **CASA Cathy Davies** for their efforts on behalf of the children! Way to go Cathy!

New studies show strong links between diets, behavior

Can the right diet make a child less hyperactive, alleviate an adult's depression, or even reduce aggression and antisocial acts? Recent research offers surprising evidence about the value of nutritional interventions for a wide range of behavioral and mood disorders.

DIET AND CHILDHOOD BEHAVIOR

Researchers in the 1970's questioned the connection between diet and behavior. Newer, more sophisticated studies, however, reveal that for many children the food/behavior link is real.

J. Breakey reviewed studies on food and behavior conducted between 1985 and 1995, and concludes that the results "clearly show a relationship" between what children eat and how they act. "The most important finding," she says, "was that in almost all studies there was a statistically significant change in behavior with dietary intervention." In addition, the studies revealed a continuum of responses to dietary intervention, "rather than the all-or-nothing earlier expectation."

Although diet changes reportedly can improve a wide range of behavior problems, including hyperactivity and sleep problems, Breakey says, "an important unexpected finding is the number of researchers who emphasize that the symptom most affected by diet is mood, especially irritability."

■ 6 November 1998

DIET AND AGGRESSION

While most studies on diet and behavior have focused on reducing hyperactivity, there is evidence that diet also has a strong influence on aggression. Physician Melvyn Werbach cites some examples:

--One study found that 20 subjects with marginal deficiencies of thiamin were impulsive, highly irritable, aggressive, and sensitive to criticism. After their diets were supplemented with thiamin, the subjects' behavior improved significantly.

--Research shows that among adolescent males, iron deficiency is directly associated with aggressive behavior. Furthermore, one study found that iron deficiency was nearly twice as prevalent in a group of incarcerated adolescents as among their non-incarcerated peers. Werbach says animal studies indicate that iron deficiency may cause behavioral impairment by diminishing dopamine transmission.

Court Appointed Special Advocate Newsletter

--Studies show that rats fed diets depleted in the amino acid tryptophan become more aggressive toward mice. In addition, research on vervet monkeys found that tryptophan-free diets increased aggression in males, while high-tryptophan food reduced aggression in both males and females.

According to Werbach, "Epidemiological studies have repeatedly found associations between overaggressive behaviors and deficiencies of several essential nutrients: niacin, pantothenic acid, thiamin, vitamin B6, vitamin C, iron, magnesium, and tryptophan."

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